



Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Avery Post Nominated For UCC President

The Rev. Avery D. Post, Boston, minister and executive head of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ was nominated for election as President of the 1.8 million member Church.

His nomination was announced by Rev. Marilyn L. Stavenger, Toledo, Ohio, Chairperson of the nominating committee of the denomination's General Synod and associate pastor of Park Congregational UCC, Toledo, Ohio, as the Committee's unanimous choice for election by the General Synod which will meet June 30-July 5 in Washington, D.C. The Synod is the chief policy making body of the Church.

In accepting the nomination, Mr. Post said, "There is a spirit in the church that intends to be evangelically faithful. Thank God, I find that people in our fellowship truly believe that the Gospel requires us to remain, without flinching, on the front lines where the struggle continues for justice, peace, human dignity and moral integrity in public and private realms."

Mr. Post formerly was pastor of UCC congregations in Scarsdale, Garden City and Norwich, all in New York, in Clinton and Milford, Conn. and in Columbus, Ohio. He is a director of Union Theological Seminary, New York City.

Born July 29, 1924, Mr. Post graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University and Yale University Divinity School.

Official Call - Annual Meeting - Southeast Conference

The Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ will meet in annual session Friday evening, June 10 - Sunday noon, June 12, in Atlanta, Ga., at Central Congregational Church and First Congregational Church.

According to its Constitution, "the voting membership consists of: ordained

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To Walk Together



In celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ (June 1977), the Stewardship Council has just produced a major filmstrip on our denomination's history and heritage.

"To Walk Together" highlights the unique nature of our four predecessor denominations: Reformed, Christian, Congregational, and Evangelical. But it does more than that, for the filmstrip makes clear that all of our forebears were interested in a reformed church and society. All affirmed the Biblically-rooted faith that Jesus Christ is sole head of the church. All four groups held to the principle that each congregation is free in Christ and yet bound in Christ to other congregations. All have fervently held that the church must proclaim the Good News to all people.

"To Walk Together" gives careful attention to the contributions that women and men, clergy and laity, Blacks and whites, Indians and Spanish-speaking people, and persons from European and Asian ancestry have made, not only to the life of our church, but to the world and to the ecumenical church as well.

The Stewardship Council encourages every congregation to secure its own copy of this important filmstrip, since this audiovisual should be shown to the entire congregation, to special leadership and study groups, to persons outside the congregation, and most especially to confirmation and adult membership classes year after year.

The filmstrip is approximately 36 minutes long, utilizing two sides of a record or two sides of a cassette tape. Provision is made for an intermission.

Despite the unusual length of "To Walk Together" and the months of research that preceded its publication, the cost has been held to \$15.00 in order to encourage as many congregations as possible to own their own copy.

"To Walk Together" can be ordered from: Office of Audio-Visuals, Stewardship Council, UCC, 1505 Race St.,

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THE EASTER MESSAGE

God Raised Him And Made Him Manifest

One thing is quite clear from the Bible, and that is that Jesus' resurrection was God's act! This was not just some publicity seeker feigning death to show his power in some spectacular way! This was a very real human being giving in to what every other human being must ultimately face, with faith that God was able to restore the life that had been taken away. God had done great things before, but nothing approached what he did in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

This was the act of God that ultimately gave birth to the Christian Church. This was the Gospel, the good news that electrified his followers and vindicated their faith in God's activity in Jesus. When in the book of Acts, Peter carries the message to the gentile, Cornelius, the central truth on which everything else stands or falls is, "But God raised Him on the third day..." (Acts 10:40). Without this fact, there would be no church, no Easter songs, no hope, no peace, no joy for us.

But there is a second act of God pointed to in what follows in Acts 10:40 - not only did God raise Jesus from the dead, "He made him manifest."

This was also God's act. You couldn't hide such an event as the resurrection under a bushel. He made sure that some people knew of the resurrection. He allowed a little circle of disciples in on the truth by allowing them to experience the resurrection, to talk with and see the crucified and risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Without their experience, this story of the resurrection would be nothing more than some fantastic tale. The making manifest of the resurrected Christ was no less an act of God than the resurrection itself!

Hallelujah!!! Thank God for Easter!!!

—Charles Fix,
Chaplain, U.S. Army, and
Pastor, Macedonia Church
Braselton, Ga.

NEWS & VIEWS

John Pline, who died from a sudden heart attack on January 1, 1977, at the age of 46, was such an active member of the Huntsville, Ala. United Church, that he will be missed for a long time. Because of him and other early pioneers we have our Church in Huntsville.

Harold Schulz, formerly pastor at Cullman, AL., has become pastor of St. Paul United Church, with this new address: Box 81, Napoleon, Missouri 64074.

Don Daughtry, formerly Associate Minister at Atlanta, First Church, has accepted a call to become pastor of Imiola Congregational Church of Kamuela, Hawaii, effective May 1.

Congratulations to Cally Rogers Witte and Frank Witte on the birth of Mary Ann Rogers-Witte, February 11, 1977, Chapel Hill, N.C.

Rev. Paul R. Gregory, formerly General Secretary for Mission for the United Church Board for World Ministries, now Regional Sec. for the Pacific Area, was guest "Missionary-in-Residence" for Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, AL, March 5-8. On March 6, he spoke on "Dimensions of Discipleship."

A Task Force on Media for Southeast Conference met at Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, February 15, to plan for a filmstrip illustrating the work and mission of Southeast Conference. Rev. David Langerhans and Rev. Earl Miller, of the Stewardship Council assisted. The first showing will be October 28-30 at a seminar to which SE Conf. churches will be invited.

Mr. Millard Fuller, Associate Missionary with the Board of World Ministries, was guest preacher on Feb. 13, at Pilgrim Church, Birmingham.

Rev. John R. Lackey was installed as pastor of Church of the Savior in Knoxville, TN, February 27.

The East Alabama Women's Fellowship held a Spring Rally on March 20, at Hillside Church, LaGrange, GA. Miss Nonnie Looser, President, presided, with Mr. Terry Dobson of Auburn College, guest speaker. Theme: "Wake Up to Beauty."

Congratulations to Roland A. Kampmeier and Ms. Silbia Scott, who were united in marriage February 26, First Baptist Church, Chattanooga, TN. New address: 1602 Carroll Lane, N. Chattanooga, TN. 37405. Silbia is with TVA.

Mrs. Bennett Teal (Janie), of our Clio

OCWM Giving Of East Alabama Churches

Churches	1975-76 Recpts.	1977 Goal
Alex. City, First	150	200
Columbus, First	900	750
Columbus, United	300	400
Dadeville, Elder	600	650
Five Pts., State Line	100	100
LaFayette, Pleas. Grove	450	500
LaGrange, Hillside	900	900
LaGrange, United	1,039.63	1,275
Lanett	5,270	4,900
Lanett, Huguley	—	—
Langdale	3,700	3,900
Lineville, New Harm.	100	100
Phenix City, First	850	850
Phenix, Russell Woods	400	500
Pine Mt., Oak Grove	600	1,500
Pisgah	250	300
Roanoke, Antioch	400	400
Roanoke, Bethany	—	250
Roanoke, First	400	450
Roanoke, Forest Home	150	250
Roanoke, Lowell	1,475	1,125
Roanoke, Mt. Zion	—	150
Roanoke, New Hope	500	500
Roanoke, Rock Spgs.	—	—
Special Offerings	100	100
Roanoke, Rock Stand	500	500
Shawmut, Todd	520	1,200
Wadley, Beulah	—	—
Wadley, Christian	360	400
Wadley, Corinth S.	400	450
Wedowee, Cavers Grove	—	—
Wedowee, Noon Day	250	550
West Point, Bethel	260	400
Woodbury, Jones Chapel	200	550
TOTAL	\$21,124.63	

1974-75	O.C.W.M. Receipts	\$20,911.
1973-74	O.C.W.M. Receipts	19,334.
1972-73	O.C.W.M. Receipts	18,049.
1971-72	O.C.W.M. Receipts	14,873.
—James E. Cowlshaw, Ch.		

Church, is recovering from being attacked by a herd of pigs, while in her back yard.

Savannah, First Congregational dedicated its new educational building on Sunday afternoon, March 27. Franklin Thomas was the speaker.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Rev. Percel Alston and the three children, upon the death of Mrs. Alston (May). An expression of gratitude for prayers, love and concern, has come from Percel in a letter.

Antioch, Andalusia Church joins Mount Zion Methodist Church for Easter Sunrise services. They participated in a six-point ministry of Love before Easter.

EVENTS

April 17 - Installation of Roger Loosier as pastor, Lowell Church, Roanoke, AL.

April 22-23 - Georgia-S.C. Assoc. Officers and Committees Retreat at office of Presbyterian Synod of SE, Augusta, Ga.

April 23 - Executive Council of Ala.-Tenn. Assoc., Belvidere, TN.

April 23 - Southern Alabama Area Council, Montgomery, AL.

May 2-4 - Ministers' & Spouses' Convocation, Camp Sumatanga, Gallant, AL.

May 5-6 - Southern Regional Strategy Meeting, Atlanta, involving five Conferences of the United Church of Christ, for the "Sunbelt" of the United States.

OFFICIAL CALL

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and licensed ministers of the Conference and lay delegates elected by the churches of the Conference.

"Each church is entitled to: three delegates. Churches having a membership of over 100 members shall be entitled to one additional voting delegate for each additional 100 members or major fraction thereof. Duly elected officers of the Conference and members of the Board of Directors shall be delegates-at-large to Conference meetings with the right of vote.

TO WALK TOGETHER

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Philadelphia, PA 19102. Note: Please specify whether you want the record or cassette with the filmstrip.

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Joe French Named "Minister Of The Year" By Laymen

An annual award, "Minister of the Year" was given to Rev. Joe A. French, of Roanoke, Ala., on February 19, at the annual Ladies' Night, Southern Union College. The following excerpts are from a letter sent by Roanoke First Church to nominate Joe:

"TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Roanoke First Congregational Christian Church takes pleasure in submitting the name of its minister, Rev. Joseph Amos French, as Outstanding Minister of the Year of the Laymen's Fellowship, East Alabama Association.

Born near Wedowee, Ala., April 1902, graduating from Randolph County High School, he then was a student at Southern Union College. He married Anna Mae Taylor of Crossville, Tenn., in 1936. They have two daughters.

Mr. French received his B.S. degree from Elon College, North Carolina, in 1928, was ordained at First Church, Roanoke, Al. the same year.

He received his M.A. and B.D. degrees at Vanderbilt, in Nashville, TN.

Mr. French served for a number of years churches in North Carolina and Virginia, being active in Southern Conference work. While he was at Reidsville, N.C., the church commissioned and supported three foreign missionaries.

In Southeast Convention, Mr. French endeared himself to people while serving as Moderator of East Ala. Association, Moderator of Southeast Convention, member and Chairman of Board of Trustees of Southern Union College.

Mr. French began his pastorate at United Church, LaGrange, in Sept. 1967 and retired from the active ministry December 31, 1971, after forty-three years of dedicated service to the ministry. But, he didn't quit. He and Mrs. French moved to Roanoke, Ala., and he now serves Roanoke First Church on half-time basis.

In Roanoke, Mr. French is a member of Kiwanis, Roanoke City Planning Commission, Chairman of Roanoke Nutrition Site Operation, and Chairman of Randolph County Advisory Board for the Aging.

He is on the E. Ala. Church and Ministry Committee, Board of Directors for Southeast Conference, and was Moderator of E. Ala. Assoc. 1972-76. He spends much of his time visiting church members and the sick. Through these varied activities and his vast amount of knowledge about the church, the membership of Roanoke First Church submits the name of Rev. Joe A. French for this honor."

NEWS NOTES

Prepare now for Vacation Bible School by ordering "Vacation Ventures" from Cokesbury, 201 Eighth Ave., S., Nashville, Tn. 37202.

May Fellowship Day, May 6, can be enriched by ordering materials from Church Women United Service Center, Box 37815, Cincinnati, Ohio 45237.

Order United Church Curriculum materials for the summer from Periodical Department, 1505 Race St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19102. Youth Magazine can be ordered there also.

Churches attending the Christian Education Shared Approaches (CE:SA) Workshops in Southeast Conference in March and April are receiving order forms from UCBHM Division of Publication for 1977-78 education resources. In addition, they are being trained how to "select" the best literature (curriculum) their church needs.

Mrs. Joe French [Anna] is recovering nicely after undergoing hip surgery in Birmingham University Hospital.

Jorgenson Co-Pastor At Charleston Circular

Pete Jorgenson, who was born in Hawaii and grew up in Chicago, San Diego, Kansas City, Norfolk, London, and Alexandria, has been called by Circular Church, Charleston, to be co-minister with Bert Keller.

On leaving Davidson College, he was at Union Seminary, Richmond, and graduated in 1965. He had ministries in Charlotte, Laurinburg, N.C., and Greenwood, S.C. He had special training in mental health counseling, and is working with Charleston County Mental Health Dept. as a counselor in child and adolescent unit.

Roanoke Women Hear Millard Fuller

In keeping with their practice of having a visiting speaker present some aspect of missionary interest, Women of the Roanoke Area met April 4, at First Church, Roanoke, and heard Millard Fuller, of Americus, Ga.

Mr. Fuller spoke on recent mission projects, including houses for natives of Ghana and Zaire, showing slides.

What May Happen At Southeast Conference Annual Meeting

A joint program committee, chaired by William S. Jackson, composed of people from First Congregational Church and Central Congregational Church in Atlanta, is developing the program for the 11th Annual Session of the Southeast Conference. The theme is: "Our United Church Heritage — History, Identity and Tradition." The dates: June 10-12, 1977.

The places of meetings are: Central Church on Friday night for Review Committees and other meetings, and Saturday morning for the business session. Delegates and visitors may have Saturday afternoon to explore urban life as it might be in the future at the Urban Life Center at Georgia State University; and Saturday night, we may share in the life of the Atlanta University complex, where the American Missionary Association helped to start Atlanta University years ago.

Sunday morning, the Conference meets for a concluding business session and worship service at First Church.

Housing will be in motels and individual homes.

Richard Griffis of the President's office in New York will meet with General Synod Delegates and others who are interested. The Youth Core Ministry group is developing some exciting plans. It is hoped that church history enthusiasts might gather on Friday night. Displays will be arranged both at Central Church and First Church.

Further information will reach the churches in May.

Convocation For Ministers And Spouses

The Annual Convocation for Ministers and Spouses will be May 2-4, Camp Sumatanga, Gallant, Ala. Registration is Monday, 1:00 P.M., and the program begins at 2:00 P.M. The Convocation concludes following the 12 Noon luncheon on Wednesday.

Cost: \$33 per couple, or \$16.50 single. Bring bed pillow, linen, soap, towel, blanket; or rent these items for \$1.50 per person. Each one should bring a Bible and notebook. Theme: "Life of the Spirit in the Life of the Church." Speakers: "Cally" Rogers and Reuben Sheares, of the Office for Church Life and Leadership.

Churches are urged to encourage their minister and spouse to attend — even to the point of giving financial help.

Heifers - A Living Gift

The United Church of Christ has always been strong in supporting the work of the Heifer Project International. 1976 was no exception. The Program Secretary, Gustav H. Kuether, 1720 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, Mo. 63103, reports that we gave \$276,000 as a "living gift." Already numerous gifts have been received in his office for the 1977 projects.

Heifers are needed around the world, 34 programs of self-help in 25 countries in 1976. In each case, the recipients are trained how to manage the improved animals they receive. Twenty-five cents to 50 cents will provide a chick for a rural family; \$15 to \$25 will provide a package of bees or a pair of rabbits; goats, sheep, and pigs cost \$60 to \$100 each and a bred heifer requires \$400 to \$600.

These animals are needed in such places as Ghana, Belize (Central America), Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Israel-Jordan, Panama, and many other countries.

Closer home, in Epes, Alabama, four Hereford bulls are needed to provide upgraded stock for the members of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives. An additional 50 Angus cows will bring the foundation herd up to 200. At Tuskegee, Alabama, the Tuskegee Institute needs 120 crossbred gilts and 12 Duroc boars for their swine project. The United Church of Christ has been challenged to provide 20 of those gilts or boars, and 4 bulls or cows to provide self-help in developmental experiences primarily for low income youth of the area.

Write Mr. Kuether if you can help.

NEEDED: Blankets And Children's Clothes

An unusually large number of requests for blankets prompted by recent disasters has depleted Church World Service reserves. Persons living in areas serviced by CWS trucks may wish to donate good used blankets, comforters, and quilts for disaster relief.

Children's clothing is another high priority this winter. Clothing should be durable, washable, and either new or good-as-new. Dresses and panties are needed for little girls, and shirts with either long or short pants are needed for boys. The CWS Clothing Center at New



'Andy' - A Reminiscence

In 1930 I arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana, to attend old Straight College on Canal Street. The street back of the campus was Cleveland Ave. When I used the Cleveland Ave. route, I passed a neat, little house surrounded by lovely flowers and shrubs — with two, slender, big-eyed boys sitting on the steps, or the stoop as it was called in New Orleans. They were Andrew and Walter Young. Their parents, Dr. and Mrs. Young, were faithful members of Central Congregational Church.

In 1937 I left New Orleans to enter the Chicago Theological Seminary. On my infrequent visits I called on Dr. and Mrs. Young and thus remained cognizant of the education and interests of Andrew. When he was ordained in Central, New Orleans, I was honored to give the charge to the Reverend Andrew Young.

When Andrew and Jean Childs Young accepted the call to the Thomasville Church, we were frequently together at summer conferences and youth camps, principally at King's Mountain, North Carolina and at Dorchester Center, Midway, Georgia. Our face-to-face opportunities became more frequent when the American Missionary Association sent

Windsor, Maryland, now offers "pre-cut," ready-to-sew children's clothing sets for \$3.00 each that interested persons may obtain and assemble. A set includes one boy's and one girl's outfit. However, any simple pattern may be used by those furnishing their own fabric. Information on self-help kits is found in a new booklet, *Forget-me-Knots*, available from Church World Service Clothing Appeal, Box 968, Elkhart, Indiana 46514.

Andrew to Atlanta to oversee the use of an SCLC grant, for which the AMA had accepted fiscal responsibility. Inevitably Andrew's compassion, interest and sense of spiritual adventure pulled him into the vortex of SCLC involvement. He accepted a staff position with the Conference and, with it, a high degree of vocational danger from the labyrinthine intrigue which was native to SCLC from its inception. Andrew's colleagues in the United Church of Christ were, for the most part, unaware of the delicacy of Andrew's position. But, some of us knew the situation from close range.

When Andrew emerged upon the political scene in Georgia, he came with excellent equipment and a rich backlog of friendship and influence which his notable work of reconciliation had gained for him. His first defeat was engineered by smart political string-pullers who placed and financed another black candidate for the 5th District Congressional race.

Dr. and Mrs. Young were so anguished by the outcome of that election that they urged me to counsel with Andrew and to advise him not to run again. I told them that I could not do this for several reasons: (1) Andrew had an excellent chance to win the 5th District seat in his second try. (2) In the interim between elections his strength had steadily grown — particularly in the white portion of the District. (3) I firmly believed that he would not be deterred from the kind of ministry on which he had settled, this including running for political office.

Those of us who love him expect that he will do well as our Ambassador to the United Nations. His equipment is unusual, and we expect that there will be numerous criticisms of his frank, evangelical approach to the well-nigh impossible chore which he has assumed. I believe that Andrew has come to this juncture with his integrity, his compassion and his faith in God unimpaired. He, Jean, and the children are members of First Congregational Church. Many times Jean and Andrew have been present when in my attempt to preach honestly to the issues of our society I have said hard, critical things about SCLC, its leadership and the bizarre fallout from the 1960's. They have felt hurt and angry. However, they have not faltered in their Christian devotion and their church loyalty. Indeed, Andrew has said on public occasions that the preacher's humble attempt to be faithful to the prophetic nature of the ministry has often struck home.

With these traits, Andrew can never remain a reminiscence. His greatest challenge and opportunity is NOW.

—Homer C. McEwen, Sr.